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INFORMATION REPORT

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Power Supply.

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1. In [REDACTED] Lithuania, the electric current was sometimes cut while wiring or power cables were being repaired (date unspecified). [REDACTED] there are now (April 1952) no power cuts. Until a few years ago, power supplies in Lithuanian towns were often weak, irregular, and unreliable, but the situation has now improved appreciably and supplies of current are normal. Town dwellers, consequently, are well able to listen to the radio because a great many families possess radio receiving sets. In country areas, however, there is seldom electric current and there are very few individual receivers. Therefore, almost the only means of radio listening available to the rural population employed on the collective farms are the radio diffusion centers, which transmit only Soviet programs.

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Registration of Receivers.

2. The registration of a radio receiver is quite a simple matter, merely involving going to the Post Office and paying the fee of 36 rubles per annum. Anyone failing to register his receiver might be fined, but source has never heard of anyone's being arrested for such an offense. In his opinion, in Lithuania, as in any other country, there must be a number of radio "pirates" in existence.

Foreign Listening.

3. Listening to foreign broadcasts in Lithuania is not officially prohibited or restricted by any laws or regulations. Source has no knowledge of any house checks being carried out to ascertain whether or not individuals are listening to foreign programs. Therefore, there appears to be no

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possibility of a direct prohibition of listening, but it is extremely difficult to say whether or not listening to foreign broadcasts is practiced extensively. If persons do listen, they speak of it only to their most intimate and trusted friends. It is obviously not advisable for anyone to repeat news items learned from abroad, because such action could be regarded as spreading anti-Soviet propaganda and would make the offender liable to severe punishment.

Jamming.

4. Jamming is at its worst between 0600 and 0700 hours, and after 1900 hours; it is weaker during the day and around midnight. In order to avoid it, one needs to try various stations on the dial until one is found where jamming at the time is not being effected or is very weak. This is possible only occasionally. Ordinarily, if jamming is being carried out, then a complete program is jammed. The main jamming effort is directed against programs from abroad designed to reach countries behind the Iron Curtain. Subject had the impression that transmissions in German and Czech are not interfered with and that broadcasts in Polish are better heard than those in Russian or Lithuanian.
5. In addition to normal types of jamming, there are other means of interfering with foreign broadcasts. Receivers of Soviet manufacture, for instance, are apparently constructed in such a manner that at certain times they can not receive anything but the local station. Source is unable to explain how this can be done, except to suggest that the receivers might be made in some way which responds to some technical arrangement initiated by the local transmitting station. He has noticed this phenomenon in Vilnius but not in Kaunas, and it usually happens at about 1900 hours, when the Voice of America is transmitting the news. This type of interference does not seem to affect sets of foreign manufacture.

Type of Receiver Used.

- 25X1 6. [redacted] source listens to his own set, which is a Siemens six-tube set of 1937/8 make. It has short wave reception, and an outdoor aerial is fitted. For the reception of short wave stations, however, source uses an indoor aerial. Spare parts for this set are easy to buy but, if tubes need replacing, only those of Soviet make are available and their insertion requires that the sockets also be changed.
- 25X1 7. On occasion, source [redacted] sometimes has listened on a Phillips of about six tubes or on a Blaupunkt of about eight or nine tubes, but he is not able to describe either of these in greater detail.

Listening Times.

- 25X1 8. [redacted] source's hours of work are normally 0700 to 1830 hours. He, therefore, usually listens on working days between 0545 and 0615, and again between 1900 and 0015. On his free days, he listens at almost any time between 0500 and 0030, sometimes even later. He considers 1500 hours to be a good time at which to listen because jamming does not seem so strong then.

Reception of Foreign Stations.

9. In general, reception of foreign broadcasts on long waves offers little scope. On medium waves source can hear English stations, Paris, Berlin,

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Stockholm, Ankara, and others. On short waves, he can hear a great many more stations. Of these, the most difficult to hear are the BBC and the Voice of America because of jamming by the Soviets. He listens to broadcasts in Lithuanian, Polish, and Russian, and tries to listen every day; but, because of interference, it is not always possible to hear a whole program. His personal preference is to listen to the BBC in Polish and Russian; but, if he is unable to hear the transmission on any particular day because of interference, he listens to others, such as the Voice of America or Radio Madrid in Polish. It is not possible to say from which station he gets the best reception; one day it may be better from one station and on the following day from another; interference is not always uniform. Sometimes it is necessary to try almost every station on the dial to find the one with the least interference.

Reception of BBC Programs.

10. Source always listens to the BBC on short waves, but not always on the same wavelength, because he has to select the wavelength which is giving the best reception at a particular time. It is almost impossible to listen to the news broadcast designed for the countries behind the Iron Curtain on long and medium waves. Very occasionally it is possible to hear transmissions in Polish on long waves, but this is exceptional, and transmissions on these wavelengths are usually inaudible. Reception of the BBC is frequently so bad that it is quite impossible to listen. When source has time, that is, if he is not at work and has a whole day in which to play about with the radio set, it is often possible to try each station in turn at different times of the day, and thus occasionally to be able to hear a complete program. Normally, however, when going to work restricts the hours of listening, source reckons that on the average it is impossible to hear BBC programs for about three days each week.
11. He usually listens to the BBC alone, or perhaps in company with a particularly trustworthy friend. Group listening is very difficult for technical reasons (apart from the security considerations) because in order to hear a program it is often necessary to keep one's ear against the loudspeaker and to keep turning the control knobs in search of the station with the best reception and the least jamming. Discussions of the news broadcast by the BBC or other foreign stations occur only between very good friends in private. Such topics are never discussed in public, and source has never heard any Communists talking about foreign news items or matters arising from foreign news broadcasts.
12. Source has paid no attention to the names of BBC announcers, but in his opinion the voices on the BBC are pleasant and good to listen to, whereas the announcers on the Voice of America are unpleasant.

Reasons for Listening to BBC.

13. He listens to the BBC because he wants to know what is going on in the free world, and to be well-informed on world political affairs. The news transmitted by the BBC seems reliable and enables comparisons to be made with news items given by the Soviet radio. Since some news items are suppressed by the Soviets, it is interesting to hear them by these other means and to be able to orientate oneself accordingly on the general situation.

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Opinions and Comments on BBC Programs.

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14. [redacted] the most interesting part of the BBC programs are the political commentaries, and these are the most listened to. Talks about life in Great Britain, its culture, scientific and educational achievements, are also listened to with interest. He has no comment to make on the "English by Radio" lessons, and doubts that they arouse much interest.

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15. [redacted] following comments on the BBC and other foreign radio programs.

- a. A very useful purpose would be served if the BBC announced in advance when political reviews and commentaries were to be broadcast, or fixed firm days and times for such talks. They would be most acceptable in the form of a weekly review. Also, whenever a more important political event takes place, it would be very beneficial to hear commentaries upon it from the BBC, but prospective listeners should be notified in advance that such commentaries are to be given. Otherwise, much that may be useful may be missed altogether.
- b. Generally speaking, it must be emphasized that programs from the BBC and other foreign stations can be calculated to reach the more highly educated element and not the broad masses of the population in Lithuania, and they should be adapted accordingly. Occasional programs illustrating the working of the democratic system in other countries, such as, for example, digests of parliamentary discussions with or without commentaries, questions and answers in debates, and the like, which are not transmitted by the Voice of America, would, it was felt, be of interest to listeners in Lithuania. Such broadcasts would provide a better picture of the essence of the democratic system and also of the general political situation.

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1. [redacted] Comments: The technical feasibility of this procedure is open to question.

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